



NEWS RELEASE

Local children to get a healthy meal to start their school day, thanks to a partnership between Breakfast Club of Canada and Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation

Nanaimo, BC - 22 December 2013: Children in three more Nanaimo schools will be able to start their day with a nutritious breakfast, thanks to a growing partnership between Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation (NLSF) and Breakfast Club of Canada (Club).

The funding will assist the full-service breakfast programs at John Barsby Secondary, and Georgia Avenue and Bayview Elementary schools and provide 140 students with a meal to start their school day.

This partnership expands the breakfast program to eight Nanaimo schools. In 2011, the Club made a three-year commitment to fund breakfast programs for students at five schools: Nanaimo District Secondary; and Forest Park, Brechin, Park Avenue, Fairview Elementary schools.

“Thanks to the generous support from Breakfast Club of Canada, we’re able to provide a nutritious meal to our children, so they can get a better start to their day and focus on their school work,” said Erin van Steen, NLSF’s executive director.

“Nanaimo has one of the highest child poverty rates in the province and, daily, many children come to school hungry. School nutrition programs help to level the playing field for all children, giving them an equal chance to grow and flourish throughout life. This partnership will make a significant difference in the lives of hundreds of children in our community,” she said.

Van Steen said that the Club’s funding allows the foundation to serve over 5,500 meals a month at the eight Nanaimo schools.

Melaina Patenaude, First Nations, Métis and Inuit advisor for Breakfast Club of Canada, said that the benefits of a healthy breakfast every morning are numerous.

“The children have more energy and concentration, better problem-solving skills and overall behavior, and even reduced bullying,” Patenaude said

“These benefits go well beyond the school walls; they shine in the community and, ultimately, in our society. Thanks to both our individual and corporate partners, who are all committed to the cause of feeding our children’s future, we’re able to bring more children in Nanaimo closer to their dreams,” she added.

Founded in 1994 in Quebec, Breakfast Club of Canada began to fund and support school breakfast programs in the rest of Canada in 2005. Its mission is to offer a healthy breakfast in a nourishing environment to all students. The Club is a stakeholder dedicated to laying a foundation for students to thrive both at school and in life. In BC, over 5,500 children in nearly 100 schools benefit from a wholesome breakfast every morning. This year, it represents nearly 900,000 breakfasts. Visit www.breakfastclubcanada.org.

Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation raises funds and works with school district staff and teachers to better the lives of school children through student support and scholarship programs, supplies, and programs that are not funded by the Ministry of Education or are not covered by the school board budget. To get more information or to make a donation, please visit the website at www.NLSF.ca or call 250.753.4074.

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